

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 11-18 were pending in this application. Claims 15 and 18 have been canceled by way of this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 19 has been added by way of this reply. Claims 11 and 12 are independent. The remaining claims depend directly from claim 11 or 12.

Claim amendments

Independent claims 11 and 12 have been amended by way of this reply. Specifically, claims 11 and 12 have been amended to clarify terms in the claims, to correct minor errors, and to specify a first network printer and a second network printer. Accordingly, claims 14 and 17 also have been amended to correspond to claims 11 and 12. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Figures 10-14 and in paragraphs [0055]-[0066] of the publication of the Specification.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 15 and 18 have been canceled by way of this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,791,703 issued to Maeda *et al.* (hereinafter “Maeda”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,429,952 issued to Olbricht (hereinafter “Olbricht”). Claims 15 and 18 have been canceled by way of this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, with respect to claims 15 and 18, this rejection is now moot. Independent claims 11 and 12 have been amended as discussed above. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the claims as amended, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

One or more embodiments of the present invention are directed to a printing method in which a printer on a network other than a printer to perform printing sends a print acceptance screen, where the latter printer does not have a function to provide the print acceptance screen (*see Publication of the Specification, paragraphs [0056] and [0060]*).

Independent claims 11 and 12 have been amended to clarify the invention and to change specific features. Specifically, claims 11 and 12 have been amended to require that a computer displays a print acceptance screen based on page data sent from a first network printer on a network, and a third area for the user to specify a second network printer on the network to print

on the basis of the print data. Also, Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to change the word “scanner” to “peripheral device.”

Accordingly, amended independent claims 11 and 12 recite, in part, “wherein a computer displays a print acceptance screen based on page data sent from a first network printer on a network,” and “a third area for the user to specify a second network printer on the network to print on the basis of the print data.”

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a), the Examiner must show that the prior art references, when combined, teach or suggest all of the claim limitations (*see* MPEP § 2143). Applicant respectfully asserts that whether considered separately or in combination, Maeda and Olbricht do not show or suggest all of the limitations of amended independent claims 11 or 12.

As an initial matter, Figure 6 of Maeda clearly does not include a network 10A alleged by the Examiner (*see* Office Action dated July 28, 2006, at page 3). Applicant believes that the Examiner’s reliance on Figure 6 is in error regarding the network 10A, and Applicant assumes that the Examiner intended to cite to Figure 1 of Maeda.

In contrast to amended independent claims 11 and 12, neither Maeda nor Olbricht shows or suggests “wherein a computer displays a print acceptance screen based on page data sent from a first network printer on a network” and “a third area for the user to specify a second network printer on the network to print on the basis of the print data.”

In fact, Maeda teaches nothing more than “data acquisition means for accessing a server on a network in order to obtain image forming data from the server in accordance with a pull print request” (*see* Maeda, Claim 1). Also, Maeda teaches nothing more than that a printer address 503 is the network address of a digital copier 1 that issues a Web Pull Print request (*see* Maeda, Figure 6 and column 7, lines 19-20). In other words, Maeda provides no specific

relationships between a first printer and a second printer on a network. That is, Maeda does not show or suggest a first network printer, which sends the page data on which a computer displays a print acceptance screen, and a second network printer to print on the basis of the print data, as required by amended claims 11 and 12.

Olbricht is also completely silent with respect to network printers. In fact, Olbricht expressly teaches away from the features of “wherein a computer displays a print acceptance screen based on page data sent from a first network printer on a network,” and “a third area for the user to specify a second network printer on the network to print on the basis of the print data,” as required by amended independent claims 11 and 12. This is evidenced by the fact that Olbricht expressly teaches that a browser retrieves an HTML-format page from the scanner, not from a first network printer (*see* Olbricht, column 3, lines 26-27). Indeed, a *prima facie* case of obviousness may be rebutted by showing that the art, in any material respect, teaches away from the claimed invention (*see* MPEP § 2145.05). It would be clear to one skilled in the art that Olbricht does not show or suggest at least a first network printer and a second network printer, as required by amended independent claims 11 and 12. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that Olbricht does not show or suggest at least the above limitations of the claimed invention.

In view of above, Maeda and Olbricht, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the invention as recited in amended independent claims 11 and 12. Thus, amended independent claims 11 and 12 are patentable over Maeda and Olbricht. Claims 13 and 14, directly dependent from claim 11, and claims 16 and 17, directly dependent from 12, are allowable for at least same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim

Claim 19 has been added by way of this reply. No new matter has been added, as support for new claim 19 may be found, for example, in Figures 10 and 11 and in paragraphs [0056] and [0057] of the publication of the Specification.

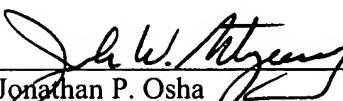
As discussed above, claim 19 depends from amended independent claim 11. Thus, claim 19 is allowable for at least same reasons as discussed above with respect to amended independent claim 11.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783/012002).

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Respectfully submitted,

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